



Hamburg's new signing Argentina captain Juan Pablo Sorin, accompanied by a friend, arrives at Hamburg airport on Wednesday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

#### Kohler turns down Ivory Coast job

AFP, Berlin

West Germany's 1990 World Cup winner Juergen Kohler said Thursday he had turned down the chance to become the new manager of Cote D'Ivoire.

Kohler, capped 105 times for his country, was approached about guiding the nation, who crashed out at the group stage at the World Cup, to the 2008 African Cup of Nations, but declined the offer.

'The Ivory Coast has better players than Bayern Munich but I have turned the offer down as I would rather work as a club coach. I need the daily involvement," Kohler said in Kicker magazine.

The 40-year-old Kohler is a free agent after being sacked by German side MSV Duisburg in April after less than four months in charge.

#### Boro sign Huth & Woodgate

AFP, Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough manager Gareth Southgate completed a double defensive swoop for Real Madrid's Ionathan Woodgate and Chelsea's Robert Huth on Wednesday.

Germany international Huth. 22, signed from the English Premiership champions for six million pounds and agreed a fiveyear contract.

England centre-half Woodgate arrived on a year's loan from Spanish club Real and Middlesbrough have an option to make a permanent move for the

Huth had been close to moving to the Riverside Stadium in preseason but the deal fell through after he failed a medical.

Former Newcastle star Woodgate, 26, has joined his hometown club after Real boss Fabio Capello told him he needed to go out on loan to prove his fitness after two injury-ravaged seasons at the

#### Drogba against divisions

INTERNET, undated

Didier Drogba has urged Chelsea teammate William Gallas to 'clear the air' over whether he wants to quit the Premiership champions.

Manager Jose Mourinho has already challenged Gallas to explain why he has not featured for the Blues this season, with reports suggesting he has been desperate to leave since he missed the club's pre-season tour of America.

And striker Drogba also wants answers as he fears the affair could upset Chelsea's bid for a hattrick of

"We can't have a divided team if we are to succeed," The Ivory Coast

international said. "We have to stay focused with

the stiff challenges ahead. All this stuff just makes it more difficult. Like the manager said recently,

William Gallas is the only person who can clear the air on this matter. "I cannot read his mind. He is a good guy with great energy but, unless he speaks up, no-one will

know what to say and no-one can move on.' He added in The Sun: "Any player that will help push us for-

ward, though, is welcome." Drogba also shrugged off his side's stuttering start to the season, which saw them lose their second

match at Middlesbrough. We started late because of the World Cup," he said. "It will take time to pick up but we will recover."

# Germans confident despite crisis

Football

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany have a defensive crisis as they prepare to face Ireland in their first qualifying match in almost three years on Saturday.

Coach Joachim Loew will be without his four specialist centre backs for the Euro 2008 Group D qualifier in Stuttgart and fullback Arne Friedrich is doubtful through

This will be Loew's first competitive match in charge, following his promotion from the assistant's role under Juergen Klinsmann at the

The match looks like a potential banana skin for the new coach but Loew is confident the momentum that took the Germans to third this year can be maintained against Ireland and away to San Marino on

must inspire a new form of eupho-

ria now," Loew told reporters this week. "Despite the injury problems, we want six points from the first two games.

Germany's impressive run to the World Cup semi-finals was based on the solid partnership of Christoph Metzelder and Per Mertesacker at centre back. However, both those players are out injured, as are Robert Huth and Jens Nowotny.

Loew is hoping Arne Friedrich will recover in time to shift across and take one of the centre back roles alongside the inexperienced Manuel Friedrich. "I'm not going to start whinging

about it," Loew said. "Manuel Friedrich and Arne Friedrich have. both played at centre back for their clubs. They know what they have to

Germany played well in their place in their home tournament first match under Loew, a 3-0 win over Sweden in Gelsenkirchen on Aug. 16, as World Cup Golden Boot winner Miroslav Klose maintained "The World Cup is over and we his excellent scoring run with two

Ireland were a shambles in a 4-0 friendly defeat by Netherlands in Dublin on the same night but coach Steve Staunton can welcome back several players who missed that game.

Robbie Keane, Damien Duff, Richard Dunne and goalkeeper Shay Given have all recovered from injuries and should resume their roles as the backbone of the team.

There are no new injury concerns for Staunton following the withdrawal on Monday of Paddy Kenny and Stephen Kelly.

Midfielder Steven Reid and John O'Shea are also likely to take the field at the Gottlieb-Daimleradion in Stuttgerty a ground that has happy memories for both sides.

It was in Stuttgart that Ireland pulled off a famous win over England in the 1988 European Championship.

Germany's final match of the World Cup was also played at Stuttgart, the hosts beating Portugal 3-1 with a cracking performance to clinch third place.

## **Gunners want Reyes** exchange

THE GUARDIAN



Arsenal were last night on the brink of a swap deal that will see Jose Antonio Reyes

move to Real Madrid in exchange for Julio Baptista, the Brazilian who

rejected a move to the club a year ago. Arsene Wenger looks set to finally land the 24-year-old, who .can play in central midfield and in attack

A deal has effectively been agreed that will see Reyes and Baptista switch on season-long loans. Reyes would be delighted to join Madrid his preferred destination and Arsenal



Danish international Thomas Gravesen (C) speaks to the press prior to a training session with the national team in Elsinore on Wednesday.

have convinced Baptista to come to the Premiership this time. He has suggested he would like to stay at Real but has been told he would get almost no chance to play under Fabio Capello.

The deal could have ramifications for Tottenham Hotspur. Spurs have agreed in principal to take Bulgaria's Martin Petrov on a season's loan from Atletico Madrid but the deal will only go through if Atletico sign a replacement on the left wing and Reyes was their primary target.

Tottenham may still get the chance to sign Petrov because Atletico are lining up a 5-millioneuro back-up bid for the Valencia winger Mario Regueiro. However, Spurs are keeping their options open and have looked into taking Harry Kewell from Liverpool. An initial approach to get the Australian on loan was rejected vesterday but Kewell will be allowed to leave at the right price.

Reves is desperate to return to Spain but Arsenal delayed responding to Atletico's offer for him worth a potential 20-million-euro (13.4 million pounds) as they sought to use the 22-year-old to capture Baptista.

Wenger wanted Baptista for attacking thrust from central midfield but the player can also operate as a central striker or in a wider position. He would need a work permit because he does not have a Spanish passport, though he has applied for one after living there since 2003. He has not been a regular for Brazil over the past year but can expect to be granted a permit.

Ashley Cole has resigned himself to staying at Arsenal at least until January, having reached deadline day without his move to Chelsea materialising. The left-back is convinced a transfer has collapsed over the asking price and sees no chance of an agreement being struck, the clubs having gone almost a week without speaking,

Tottenham expect to complete the signing of Fulham's Steed Malbranque for 2.5 million dollars, with Wayne Routledge going the other way on a season's loan. Lee Young-pyo has rejected a move from Spurs to Roma for what his agent described as "personal reasons"

#### Portugal face FIFA sanctions

SPORT

World football's ruling body FIFA could sanction the Portuguese football federation (FPF) for its part in the demotion of former top flight side Gil Vicente, according to reports Thursday.

According to daily newspaper Record, FPF president Gilberto Madail has been summoned to FIFA's headquarters in Zurich to explain why Gil Vicente were allowed to appeal to a civil court in a bid to maintain their top flight status.

FIFA's regulations forbid federations or clubs appealing to civil courts to resolve conflicts.

Gil Vicente were initially demoted to Portugal's second division following the "Mateus"

Relegation-threatened topflight side Belenenses lodged an official complaint a few months ago saying that Angolan Mateus Galiano was playing illegally at Gil

League officials upheld the complaint, and decided to relegate Gil Vicente for a perceived infraction, thus allowing Belenenses to conserve its top-flight status.

Gil Vicente then appealed to a civil court because it deemed the conflict was relevant to the country's labour laws and not strictly a

And by allowing the club to do so, the FPF could find itself in hot water with FIFA.

According to Record, Portugal even risks being suspended from its first Euro 2008 group A qualifier against Finland on September 6 in Helsinki.

#### Rossi a Toon on loan

AFP, London

Manchester United forward Giuseppe Rossi has gone to Newcastle on loan until January but will not be allowed to play against the Old Trafford club.

The 19-year-old Italian is expected to compete immediately for a first-team berth at St James' Park along with Obafemi Martins, Shola Ameobi and Albert Luque. ... His arrival will help compensate

for the loss of Alan Shearer and Michael Owen to retirement and injury respectively.

United boss Sir Alex Ferguson was said to have considered loan requests from Blackburn and West Bromwich Albion before deciding the precocious Italian would fare best on Tyneside. The move leaves United with

just Wayne Rooney, Louis Saha, Ole Alan Smith as his options up front.

"It was a big decision for us especially as we don't have the choice of strikers," said Ferguson.

"But this is something that Giuseppe wanted as he needs regular first-team football. When he returns, he will be a more experienced player who will be able to offer us much more."

#### Thatcher handed sixmatch ban

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City on Wednesday handed Ben Thatcher a six-match suspension and fined him sixweek's wages for the horrific challenge that left Portsmouth's Pedro Mendes in hospital.

A statement on City's website said two matches of the punishment would be suspended and, as Thatcher had already been left out for Saturday's match against Arsenal, he would miss a further three matches. The fine also contains a two-

week suspended penalty, which means the initial cost to Thatcher will be four-week's wages.

Under City's ban Thatcher will miss Premiership matches at Reading and Blackburn and a League Cup trip to Chesterfield.

Thatcher was only booked by referee Dermot Gallagher for the forearm smash during the teams' draw at Eastlands last Wednesday which gave Portuguese midfielder Mendes concussion and caused a The English Football

Association (FA) had charged Thatcher over the clash and Manchester police were also investigating the incident. But City boss Stuart Pearce has

taken a hard line with the former Tottenham defender and he will hope the decision to suspend Thatcher will pre-empt any further punishment from the FA. City chief executive Alistair Mackintosh told the club's website:

'As custodians of the club, and

football in general, the Board and

the Manager felt it was important

to act as soon as possible.'

### On paper they should come

Football REUTERS, Madrid

Still smarting from the disappointment of yet another premature exit at a World Cup, Spain are looking for a convincing win against Liechtenstein in their opening Euro 2008 qualifier on

"We are conscious that we have to look to the future," midfielder Xabi Alonso said on Wednesday. "We would like to have finished the World Cup in a different way, but now we have to look forward and concentrate on the European championship.

"If we want to qualify we have to start taking the first steps in our opening two games and come away with six points."

Spain follow Saturday's Group

Spain aim for flying start

though slip-ups in their last two qualifying campaigns forced Spain to take the play-off route to reach the tournament finals.

They would do well not to underestimate Liechtenstein, who came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Portugal in a World Cup qualifier in October 2004.

Luis Aragones's side were sluggish in a 0-0 draw in Iceland earlier this month and the players have admitted they have yet to show the sort of spark that has taken the national basketball team to the semi-finals of the world championships in Japan.

Goalkeeper Iker Casillas said players felt a degree of healthy jealousy at the team's success.

F opener in Badajoz with a trip to "We are happy and proud of Belfast to face Northern Ireland on what the basketball team are doing and of course we are envious too," the Real Madrid player away with comfortable victories, said earlier this week. "I wish we could get as far as them."

Despite Spain's early exit in Germany, Aragones has kept faith with almost exactly the same players for the first round of quali-

He has ignored calls to draft in fresh talent and the only newcomer to the squad is Celta Vigo midfielder Borja Oubina, a key player for the Primera Liga side last season.

If training is anything to go by, Oubina will have to wait his turn on the bench, while Alonso, David Albelda and Cesc Fabregas are favourites to start as the midfield trio with skipper Raul, David Villa and Fernando Torres up front.

## 'We have to be ruthless'

#### Football

AFP, Manchester

Steven Gerrard insists England must show no mercy against European whipping boys Andorra in Steve McClaren's first competitive match in charge of the national side.

McClaren's team launch their European Championship qualifying campaign against a country ranked 132nd in the world at Old Trafford on Saturday.

England started the McClaren era with a crushing 4-0 friendly win over European champions Greece earlier this month, a result which pleased Gerrard. But the Liverpool midfielder was disappointed the team failed to score in the second half after finding the net four times before the interval.

Gerrard is demanding England are much more ruthless against Andorra when the two at this summer's World Cup of criticism, but he has proved countries meet for the first time under Sven Goran Eriksson and himself."

Pyrenees have recorded just three victories in their short 10matches in the qualifiers for Euro 2000, World Cup 2002 and Euro

quite comfortably," said Gerrard, the England vice-captain. "We must show them respect and it would not be right for me to say we should beat them by a certain

But we've got to be ruthless. We have a lot of confidence after Crouch to continue his eyescoring four against the catching goal form for his coun-European champions. But if 'try. The 6ft 7in striker has won goals in the first half then we have ability on the world stage by to keep going after the break and try and score more.

"We must show people we mean business and finish them

Gerrard is determined England learn from their failure

insists the team owe it to the fans The tiny nation in the to qualify for Euro 2008 without

They are favourites to progyear history and lost all 28 ress in a group which also includes Macedonia, Estonia, Israel, Croatia and Russia.

We must use the hurt and "We should beat Andorra failure of the World Cup to drive us on," added Gerrard. "We struggled with some of our performances at the World Cup, but we now have a new coach and we

are looking forward, not back." Gerrard is backing his Liverpool teammate Peter we're winning by three or four over supporters who doubted his netting eight times in 12 interna-

> "I'm delighted for Peter," said Gerrard. "He is a player I appreciate playing with. I got a lot of my goals last season as a result of Peter. He's had to deal with a lot



Atletico Madrid's new signing Portuguese midfielder Maniche raises his arms on his presentation to the press at the Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid on Wednesday.

22 Nerd-pack

lander's

25 Branch 26 Owns

27 Moo -

28 Make up

29 Bottom

31 Annoy

34 Geltys-

burg

slowly 37 "Cheers"

38 Phobia

41 Check-

43 Verdi

book

memo

42 Recognize

master-

44 Particular

46 Turn on

the water

47 No longer

used, as a

20 Chi squad 40 Persuade

39 Enticement

general 35 Leak

23 Third

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

37 Spelldown 3 Haber

DOWN

2 Crafts'

dashery

rackful

4 Potential

amorous

7 Become

8 Terpsi-

chorean

shaped

pasta

10 Ganges

garment 11 October

16 Chimney

Solution time: 21 mins.

channel

specialty

35 Polar

36 Driver's

datum

38 Piccolo's

41 Bishopric

42 Chiang -

45 Modern-

day

46 "Hurry

49 "-- Town"

50 Presage

52 Small

to the

pool

ACROSS

1 Dugout

5 Adage

12 Met

13 Chart

14 Weapon

15 Levin's

18 Curva-

ceous

co-star

21 Baltimore

craft com-

comb cell

20 Mar

22 Space

23 Dish

26 Honey-

30 Roll-call

31 Moving

truck

32 "Unh-unh"

Temple

trade-

of mouse

destruc-

cut town

17 Pound of 48 Jason's

character 51 Tackle

newspaper 53 Took

8 Just okay

	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18				19				20				
			21			CONTRACT OF STREET	22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33			-	34				35		1		
			36				37					
38	39	40			100	41				12	43	44
45				100	46				47	188		
48		-			49	-			50			
51	-				52	-	1		53		-	

IF FXZ PZMDLLDLM

YIQ, D XISZ GJFZL SDBDFZR

IFFOIWFDGLB ITOTB Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU LIKE CORRECTING FALSE RUMORS AND MYTHS. DOES THAT MAKE YOU A FICTION RIGHTER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue. Y equals M

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

